The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 10. NO. 7. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1920. WHOLE NO. 475.

FEDERAL PENSION ACT PASSED BY CONGRESS

Washington, May 8.—After years of agitation both branches of congress have accepted the principle of retirement for federal employees. A senate proposal, passed by the house on April 2, which provides for retirement of classified civil service employes, and the house passed the Lehlbach bill, which embodies the same principle, on April 26. There was no record vote in the senate. The record vote in the house was 273 for 65 against.

Because of differences between the two bills congress will have to effect a compromise. The principal difference is the age retirement. The senate has set the age limit at 70 years for all groups and the house bill provides for retirement at 60 years for railway postal clerks, 62 years for city and rural carriers, post office clerks and mechanics, and 65 years for other groups. In both bills pensions are graduated both in relation to number of years in the service and pay. The maximum annual pension is $720 and minimum is $180. Employes will contribute 2½ per cent of their basic pay.

In the house Congressman Blanton attempted to amend the bill by excluding from its benefits any employe who is affiliated with the A. F. of L. His proposal was favored by only four other congressmen, three of his Texas colleagues, Messrs. Garner, Mansfield and Connally, and Perkins of Idaho and Garrett of Tennessee.

In the senate Mr. Myers of Montana offered the same amendment and was supported by Senator Colt, Rhode Island; Thomas of Colorado and Warren of Wyoming.

Now that we know how many speeches have been made against labor, there are only left a total membership of 531 who are willing, just for the sake of support to their party, to make anti-union hysteria that is been witnessed in this country. If making money since the armistice was signed.

KILLINGS IN PEACE TIMES.

San Francisco, May 8.—"The industrial accident commission of this state has had the sad experience of having to settle with approximately 4,000 killed, 16,000 permanently injured, and 250,000 temporarily injured workers from September 1, 1911, to date," said Will J. Hale, chairman of the commission, in a speech in this city.

"The accident," said the speaker, "can draw his conclusions, the theorist may theorize, but the practical lesson is written in terms of blood and suffering, and must in some way put an organization so that the toils may be reduced, so far as humanely possible.

"San Francisco is to be congratulated on the first concerted effort to reduce the number of public accidents. During the past eight years in California safety first has become a vital factor in industry. Compensation has been paid to injured employes. There is, as a consequence, unanimity of opinion that proper safety is more important than compensation. Outside of the financial consideration there is a prevailing sentiment among employers, employed and the public that safety devices should be installed and every precaution taken to prevent injury to men and women at work.

"The safety movement in industry needs to be capitalized to the extent of extending the beneficent influence over the community so that school children and men and women in all activities shall be protected."

MOBBERS NOT GUILTY.

Tombstone, Ariz., May 8.—A jury has acquitted Harry E. Wootton, Bisbee hardware merchant, of the charge of kidnapping. The jury decided in connection with the deportation of 1,186 Bisbee workers in 1917.

Nashville, Tenn., May 8.—Detectives Gus Kiger and three other policemen were arrested on charges filed when B. Lawson last November. The charge was that Kiger, acting as Lawson is a representative of the international street car men's organization. Kiger and the officers were charged with forcing Lawson in automobile at the point of a revolver, driving him to Springfield and ordering him never return to Nashville. Kiger claimed that he didn't use force, and that when he left Lawson at the city limits Lawson he accompanied him for safety. The police department held it ridiculous that Lawson's attorneys could not discover it would be settled or decided by the jury.

A significant feature in connection with the case was the refusal of the regular attorney general for the Nashville district to prosecute the mobsters. The court insisted that the law be observed and he appointed a substitute.

BIG BIZ. HAS BAD MANNERS.

New York, May 8.—When the United States chamber of commerce chartered Glenn View Presidents Well of the A. F. of L., who was discussing the Kansas law forbidding strikes" from the Glenn View world, "it paid no compliment to Governor Allen, who has since declared he delivered none of the arguments of his speaker.

"Unless the United States chamber of commerce can develop a willingness to consider both sides of industrial controversies in which it takes a part, it should change its name," Editor Ochs's newspaper declared that the exhibition of mob methods will have an effect opposite to that intended by those who talk about "hearing both sides."

BANKER URGES POLITICS.

Pittsburg, N. C., May 8.—At a meeting of officers of the American bankers' association President Hawes urged that bankers take a greater interest in the selection of men for political places.

If a strong unionist offers this advice to his fellows, the cry of "class control" is heard.

WANT $48 MINIMUM.

Spokane, May 8.—A $48 minimum and a 44-hour week for printing trades employes was demanded by the Pacific coast allied printing trades conference in session here this city. The district includes California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

RAISE WAGES $5 A WEEK.

Ilion, N. Y., May 8.—A new contract signed by A. F. of L. federal labor unions and the American Safety Razor company calls for a $5 weekly wage increase.

BIG BIZ WOULD DIVIDE WORKERS AND FARMERS

Des Moines, Iowa, May 3. — If farmers favor legislation that will stop strikes in industry, they will play into the hands of exploiters, declared Editor Pierce of the Iowa Homestead.

The farm editor called attention to the resolution declaration by the national farm bureau federation, that strikes "can no longer be tolerated."

"In the first place," writes Editor Pierce, "let it be conceded that the proposed law is dangerous. It should be used only as a last resort. But let it also be clearly understood that under present conditions, in the last resort it is the only weapon which the workers have to enforce its rights to a fair wage and proper living conditions. Also let it be plain that the strike is not the weapon of industrial labor alone, but that it is used by the farmers and every other group of producers and consumers in one form or other, for self-protection.

"The national farm bureau federation is treading on dangerous ground. Its resolution is a two-edged sword that will cut both ways. Today every profiteering capitalistic combine in the United States is applauding the farm bureau's resolution. But just as surely as this is the most gladly to be perhaps even more so) with organized labor. Again I legislation to prevent collective bargaining by the railroads. A bill has been introduced in congress to place both farm and labor organizations under the terms of the Sherman anti-trust act.

"The outright big business interests cannot put this across alone against the farmers and laborers of the country. But they can, and they will, if the farmers' organizations that fall into this trap are playing right into their hands. Again I say the farm bureau federation is treading on dangerous ground. It is sowing the wind that will turn a whirlwind against itself, and bring the storm which it claims to oppress collective bargaining in the marketing of farm products to naught."

U. S. POOR PAYMASTER.

Washington, May 8.—In resigning his position as director of the United States bureau of mines, Van H. Manning made this statement in his letter to the president:

"While the government there comes to me, as it has over and over again, the thought that at the same time the government spends each year many millions of dollars in useless investigations, in the duplication of the work of people, the monetary recognition of its scientific and technical men is less than sufficient to enable them to continue in the service for the people. This condition, especially true within the last few years when it has been impossible to get, right and keep men in the government service.

"With the marvelous expansion of industry in this country and the growing necessity of science to industry, scientific bureaus have been utterly unable to hold their assistants against the competition of industry which is taking the highly trained men at salaries the government does not pay or even approach."

Dr. Manning said many of those scientific men are forced to enter the commercial field although they care little for this activity, and are of inestimable value to the government.

LIVING COSTS JUMP.

Boston, May 8.—The cost of living increased 95 per cent from July, 1914, to March, 1920, according to the Industrial service bureau, a state board, which represents a score or more business concerns.

Food prices advanced 106 per cent; rents, 45 per cent; clothing 117 per cent; fuel, including gas and electricity, and sundries, 83 per cent. The bureau's figures on furniture, house furnishings, medical care, recreation, organization dues of all kinds, tobacco, liquors, etc., are not given.

The largest increases are reported in clothing and furniture. Men's overyard goods leading. Men's overcoats advanced 220 per cent; women's coats, 204 per cent; women's knit vests, 220 per cent; men's union suits, 200 per cent; men's shirts, 226 per cent; men's shoes, 209 per cent; women's cape kid gloves, 217 per cent.

STEEL EARNINGS LARGE.

New York, May 8.—The report of the United States steel corporation for the first three months of this year shows net earnings of $47,000,000. Not since the third quarter of 1918, or before the strike, have earnings reached these figures.

After all charges were met, vast sums were set aside for depletion of the plants and preferred dividends provided for, there was a surplus of $19,124,000 on the common stockholders, which is equivalent to $3.84 a share. A like rate a share of common stock will earn $15.52 during the year, as compared with a normal dividend rate of $5 a share.

MAY USE PAPER DISHES.

New York, May 8.—Manufacturers of the highest grades of glass tableware are worried over rumors that the government of a number of cities restaurants is contemplating the installation of paper containers instead of glass and paper plates. This change, it is claimed, would eliminate the big item of breakage.

MORE FOR STREET CAR MEN.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 8.—Platform men employed by the local street car men have advanced wages 10 cents an hour. The minimum rate is 45 cents and the maximum 50 cents.

UPHOLSTERERS UNITE.

Gary, Ind., May 8.—Upholsterers in this city have formed a union and are out for a 100 per cent organization.

COURT GOES TWO WAYS THEN "STANDS PAT"

Washington, May 8.—The United States supreme court has refused the government's request to reopen the steel trust case, which was based on a violation of the anti-trust law, and was decided March 1 last in favor of the trust.

In asking that this decision be reviewed the government practically charged the court with contradicting itself on April 26 in the case called Reading coal case, which was decided against the government involved railroads.

The government told the court that its steel trust opinion apparently considered that this trust violated the anti-trust law and that this criminal combination is permitted to continue because the court holds, mere size is not a violation of the law; that a dissolution of the trust would be an injury to the public interest and that the existence of unexerted power" is not an offense.

In the Reading coal case the court took the opposite view and declared: "That such a power, so obtained, regardless of the use made of it, constitutes a menace to undue restraint upon interstate commerce within the meaning of the anti-trust act, has frequently been upheld by this court."

In the Reading case the court dissolved a holding company which controlled certain railroads and mine companies. This holding company was not a producing company, but controlled the companies. It manipulated the market, and shipments of coal were unduly stifled normal competition. Its power was used to stop the building of a railroad that would eventually develop into a competitor.

The government charged that this holding company with the steel trust, which is likewise a holding company and does not produce coal itself but is a combination of units of which the Carnegie company, the Morgan group, the Moore and Reed group, and the Gates and Gary group.

In refusing to reopen the steel trust case the supreme court gave no reason and made no comment on the unusually plain language contained in the government's brief.

INCOMES REACH MILLIONS.

Washington, May 8.—In a discussion of the income tax provisions of the revenue bill now before congress, Congressman Henry T. Rainey presented these statistics:

"There are two men in the United States whose income last year was over $10,000,000. There are five men in the United States whose income last year was over $5,000,000 apiece. In 1914, before the war started, there were only two whose annual incomes were over $1,000,000 apiece. Last year there were 245 men whose incomes were over $1,000,000 apiece. In 1914 there were 114 men whose incomes were between $500,000 and $1,000,000 apiece. Last year there were 495 men whose incomes were between $500,000 and $1,000,000 apiece. In 1914 there were 141 men whose incomes were between $200,000 and $500,000 apiece. Last year there were 1,015 men with incomes between $200,000 and $250,000. Now there are 750 men who enjoy this income. In 1914 there were 406 men whose incomes exceeded $150,000 and was under $200,000. Now there are 2,300 men who enjoy that income."

MANY IDLE IN SEATTLE.

Duluth, May 8.—There are 10 carpenters for every job in Seattle, according to Secretary Scientific Employment Bureau of the Duluth Carpenters' union from a letter just received by the council of the Seattle. The northwest unionists say:

"Owing to the closing down of all shipyards in this district and the anti-union fight being made by the associated industries against all unions, especially the building trades, there is no chance for work. Job is Seattle, with very little work under construction. We are trying to hold our union shop conditions and will be successful if our union employes will stand pat. Nothing is doing in Seattle. The northwest unionists say:

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"Owing to the coming brothers must come to the northwest they had better not come. Everything is dull on and feed some of the men already here.

"The A. F. of L. is your fight as well as ours, and you will assist us by sending your financial aid in the most conspicuous places."

WORKERS ARE PRODUCING.

Washington, May 8.—The cry for greater production is being sounded out the land, although government reports show that production is now in excess of domestic needs and is smashing all records.

In March of this year raw materials to the value of $2,250,000,000 were shipped which is 12 per cent increase of $125,000,000 over the same period a year ago.

Manufactured articles to the value of $2,930,000,000 were exported during March of this year, which is $187,000,000 more than in value of $121,000,000 over March of last year.

The value of foodstuffs declined. The March shipments over seas totaled $155,000,000, or a decline of $14,000,000 from last year.

CAN'T ENFORCE LEVER ACT.

Louisville, Ky., May 8.—Federal Judge Dawson dismissed proceedings against three alleged violators of the Lever food control act on the ground that the act is too vague and its language too indefinite.

"The acts and pro ect trade unionists. They are business men, charged with profiteering. The court declined to pass upon the constitutionality of the law, but his decision is a statement of a principle the same purpose as if he held the law invalid as professing prosecution that is unfair.

TELEPHONE GIRLS GAIN.

Boston, May 8. — Telephone girls in Boston have received a third period by the New England Telephone & Telegraph company. They secured wage increases. Supervisors will be paid $25 a week and operators $18.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Los Angeles, May 8.—Printers employed on local newspapers have secured a weekly bonus of $2. Rates are now $39 for day work and $42 for night work.

MORE FREIGHT COSTS WOULD BE "VELVET"

Washington, May 8.—Additional freight costs would be "velvet" to the railroads, declared president Lee of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen in urging higher wages before the railroad labor board. He declared that if the wages of every railroad employe were doubled the average commodity value of each ton of freight handled by the railroads would be less than 1 per cent, and if the proposed plan to increase freight rates is approved the roads will receive none of the increase, which will be paid by manufacturers and middlemen.

"The freight cost of a suit of clothes from Chicago to Los Angeles, where it retailed for $20, was $1.12 in 1914 at 5½ cents per hundred. Carter. "The price of the same suit to-day and for 1919 was $40, and while the cost of the freight haul of 2,296 miles to Los Angeles went up only 2½ cents, or 100 per cent, the employes would involve a higher freight rate would increase the cost one-fifth of a cent per pound for beef, or 15 cents per barrel of flour, or 4½ cents per 1,000 ton miles."

Typical freight shipments are less than 300 miles, and on these the increase would be only one-third the amounts noted.

LASHED INTO LINE.

Topeka, Kan., May 8.—The methods employed to put across the Kansas industrial court law, which in such a whirlwind that few legislators realized what they were doing, was shown by Representative Lyons in explaining his vote in favor of the bill.

"Mr. Speaker, I believe this law is a step backward rather than forward — that it helps forge the chains of slavery upon human beings and binds the hands of labor. That it is also undemocratic in principle is a thing too much power in the hands of the executive of the state. But on account of the prejudice and misrepresentation of the press that has gone out over the state, I vote 'yes' to repeal the law; therefore I vote aye."

A few legislators voiced their ground and insisted that the bill was unconstitutional, that it prohibited strikes, that the history of England showed the folly of attempting to reverse economic conditions by law that failed to remove the cause of the complaint.

Representative Disch refused to be lashed into line with the "Wyes" on the vote which have led to strikes, because of just grievances, are suppressed, that the bill does not surely the people of the state generally and that it is unconstitutional and is "the most pernicious measure ever introduced in the legislature."

MAKE NEW RECORD.

Washington, May 8.—Although the campaign is just opening up, more than 3,000,000 men and women have contributed to the A. F. of L. non-partisan political campaign.

This does not mean that 3,000,000 persons have individually forwarded contributions to headquarters. It means that included in contributions from individuals and organizations, money has been received from that number.

Many of the national and international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. have contributed for their membership on the 1-cents per member basis.

It is probable that no organization engaged in the political campaign will receive contributions from so many persons. Nor is it likely that any other organization will have the number of organized committees at work. The A. F. of L. campaign committee has already organized probably a larger number of committees than any other organization in the field.

CITY "HOLDS THE BAG."

New York, May 8.—In an investigation of financial juggling and graft scandals linked to the city's rapid transit system it was shown that the company's contract with the city absolved it from being same "for" railroad transit "operation," and that therefore the city by the agreement the only thing the city could do would be to lease the line to the company and pay it the price, although the city's financial backers made it possible to build the subways.

The company's present capitalization is $357,000,000, of which $250,000,000 is declared to be "pure water."

WANT NON-UNION SHOP.

Atlanta, May 8.—Trade unionists in this city are standing together against the anti-trade union campaign being waged by the associated industries of Georgia.

These employers, like their brethren in other parts of the country, don't like collective bargaining. Their ideal shop is where they can hire their men at their own wages, hours and working conditions. The trade unionists challenge this theory, so the bosses become patriotic and talk about "independents" and "freedom."

OPEN SOUP KITCHENS.

San Antonio, Texas, May 8.—Because of the high cost of living, soup kitchens soon will be established, it was announced here following reports coming from other sections of the state.

Rice is being imported under the guise of a labor shortage in the cotton and other sections. They drift to the cities and are being used to beat down living standards.

WIRE MEN GAIN.

Vincennes, Ind., May 8.—Electrical workers have secured considerable wage increases.

ROOFERS REDUCE HOURS.

Joplin, Mo., May 8. — Organized roofers have secured considerable wage increases.

LATEST GHOST DANCE INVOLVES PRINTERS

Washington, May 8.—E. J. McCone of the non-union Buffalo Commercial classified as a ghost dancer while testifying before a senate committee that is investigating the news print paper scarcity.

The witness revived the hoax, worked overtime 12 years ago, that the International Typographical union censors every newspaper in this country but four, and that this union is the official censor for the American Federation of Labor.

The witness said the proprietor of the Los Angeles Times could get all the committee additional evidence along this line. The Los Angeles Times is the most notorious open shop union sheet in America.

The Buffalo man also charged that the publishers' board of members of the Typographical union dominated the Canadian labor organization ahead of the government. This was another war time hoax that didn't quite get started several years ago.

McCone's statements to the committee are in line with his general method of fighting trade unions by injecting into the record clippings and sheet reeked with slanders against labor unions.

New York, May 8.—The New York Times telegraphed to newspaper editors in all parts of the country if they were free from labor unions. It scored news, as charged in Washington by E. J. McCone of the non-union Buffalo Commercial. The Times summarizes the replies as follows:

"Inquiry addressed to editors in all parts of the country brought vigorous and unqualified denial of Mr. McCone's charge. One newspaper man, who insisted that in all their experience they had never met with censorship was absolutely unknown to them."

Ghost Dancer McCone is thus crowded off the stage and organized labor awaits the next performer.

PROGRESS BY BLACKSMITHS.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 8.—An eight-hour day agreement has been signed by organized blacksmiths and the Great Lakes Dredge & Dock company and the Empire engineering company. Minimum rates are $1 an hour for helpers and 75 cents for assistants. Double time will be paid for work done on Sundays and holidays.

Toronto, Ontario, May 8.—A 44-hour week and arbitration provisions are features of an agreement by the Dominion Shipbuilding company and the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers. Wages are increased and night rates will be one-fourth above the scale. A double rate for Sundays and holidays. Extra pay will be made for work done after the regular day's work.

Cincinnati, May 8.—The Axle Makers' union, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers, has won a long fight against the Pollak Steel company of Carthage, which refused to sign a union agreement. The Axle Makers' union triumphed and the company signed the agreement, raised wages and agreed to improve working conditions.

Axle makers in other cities are urged to follow the example of Carthage axle makers and join the union of their trade. Information may be secured by writing to the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers at Chicago.

CAN'T LIMIT INCREMENT.

Pueblo, Col., May 8.—Judge Lewis of the federal district court has ruled that where a municipality has granted to the public privilege of a member of three in a family to purchase necessities of life. Just think what we have to pay for a meal for ourselves in a restaurant today and then a think what can be secured for $1 a day to pay for three meals and clothes."

4-MINUTE MEN FOR LABOR.

Washington, May 8.—A corps of four-minute speakers will be enlisted in every city in America in the non-partisan political program, is the announcement of the A. F. of L. campaign committee. The campaign committee. The speakers will be drawn from the field until the campaign closes.

The four-minute men will address every local union in America each week as well as all other meetings with the privilege of the floor can be had.

The same message from labor will be given in the four-minute speakers, personally and a new message will be delivered each week. It is expected that the four-minute speakers will constitute one of the big driving forces in the campaign to educate the enemies and elect the friends of labor.

LABOR FARES BADLY.

Washington, May 8.—The attitude of the present congress toward labor is indicated by the sundry civil appropriation bill, which has been reported to the house. This bill contains appropriations for each of certain employes and other expenses for the coming year. The entire clerical service of the department of labor is reduced to $125,000, as against $150,000 for the fiscal year. The naturalization service is reduced $446,000 to $250,000, as against $250,000 last year, and regulation of immigration is given $1,000,000, against $1,446,000 last year. The appropriations mean that wages and salaries will amount to practically nothing.

SWISS REJECT 6-HOUR DAY.

New York, May 8.—Swiss workers have suffered upon the economic power of their trade unions to secure the eight-hour day, according to this Associated Press cable from Berne, Switzerland:

"The government considers it impracticable to carry out the eight-hour day as provided by the Washington labor congress (called under the provisions of the league of nations.

"Parliament came to this conclusion after a long debate last week. It proposed that there be a broader interpretation of the government's decision, or that it be amended."

WAR'S TOLL IS HEAVY ON AUSTRIAN PEOPLE

London, England, May 8.—A dark picture of Austrian conditions is drawn by C. A. Appleton, president of the International Federation of Trade Unions and secretary of the British General Federation of Trade Unions.

The International Federation of Trade Unions must take notice of the sorrows of the workmen in any country, writes Appleton. "Austria at the moment affords a pitiful example of the consequences of war. Many of her citizens are suffering grievously and her little children are crying for want of nourishment. She has appealed for help, and help is being sent, but whether it is sufficient, or will arrive in time, is still a matter for unhappy conjecture.

"The International Federation has already sent large consignments of food into Austria.

February 16 I accompanied the second of three trains of 37 trucks of potatoes, margarine, eggs and red beef and condensed milk. Each of these trains cost $100,000.

"Before the war Austria was an extensive empire, including 58,000,000 people, of different races, many speaking different languages, but all, in theory at least, united. Until the end Austria is a republic with a population of 5,500,000 to 6,000,000, all of whom are crying for want of nationality. The country has been ruined by the war. It is in economic value and with a debt that was heavy when placed on the shoulders of the empire.

"It is only when one reaches the cities that the full extent of the misery which overwhelms Austria can be realized. Then it is that the allies have left Austria with an industrial population but has stripped her of all the materials in order to operate successfully.

"She has also been left with a great population of non-producers including pre-war pensioners, unemployed civil servants and workers in luxury trades and in such occupations as are provided by the theaters, the restaurants and cafes.

"The industrial position of Austria is indeed a desperate one. Vienna itself, there are only Vienna itself 2,500,000 people. In the other considerable towns left to Austria there are not more than 500,000.

"The agricultural population is apparently the only resource, and out of a limited and poor soil it has to produce enough to maintain the town population."

MONTHLY WAGE $87.50.

Washington, May 8.—"How can men live on $87.50 a month?" asked Acting Chairman Aitchison of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, in an argument for increased wages before the railroad labor board. The trade unionist said:

"The average employes he said, 'subscribed for liberty bonds on the installment plan, and the $87.50 a month goes to pay for the money to purchase them. These bonds have been sacrificed to meet the conditions of profiteers."

Aitchison thought these employes can receive is $2.81 a day. They approximate $75 a month.

"For a family," said the trade unionist, "they require $87.50 a month for rent, for the table, for clothing. But we don't know, not can we figure out, with $75 a month provide a home, furnish a table, light it, heat it, clothe ourselves and deduct only a reasonable amount for rent per month, we find that we have less than $2 a day for each day of the month of three in a family to live, educate, succeed in life. Just think what we have to pay for a meal for ourselves in a restaurant today and then a think what can be secured for $1 a day to pay for three meals and clothes."

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BOOKBINDERS UNITING.

Indianapolis, May 8.—The membership of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders has increased 8,113 since July, 1918. Of this number 3,000 are in Canada. The brotherhood's present good standing membership is 25,244.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Dewitt Lake, N. Dak., May 8.—Teamsters at this place have secured wage increases that approximate 16 per cent.

Cincinnati, May 8.—Wage increases that range over a month have been secured by the Soft Drink Drivers' union.

IRON MOLDERS GAIN.

Oklahoma City, Okla., May 8.—A 20 per cent wage advance has been secured by Iron Molders' union No. 535. Conferences have been held with employers for over a month and at no stage of the proceedings a strike was necessary.

LABOR'S NON-PARTISAN ACTIVITY IS NOTED IN REACTIONARY CAMP

Washington, May 8.—Labor's reactivity in applying its 9-year system of non-partisan political action is reflexed in congress.

Out of the entire membership of over 100 members in the national law making body, but nine of these—three in the senate and six in the house—voted in favor of excluding organized labor, the employes from retirement benefits, as provided in the retirement bill just passed.

But nine law makers were willing to go on record against a fundamental right, after a lengthy campaign of vituperation and misrepresentation against organized labor that is unequalled in the history of the American congress. The purpose of this campaign was to create a public sentiment that would make possible the passage of an anti-strike law and sedition legislation that would be used to block all legislation of the workers for better conditions.

These enemies of labor were in clover a few months ago and were confident that they could defeat any cheap-labor element. Organized labor's resistance to these enemies to private life, and the present scheme to postpone anti-strike legislation until the next congress will be further amended when the returns are counted in November. With this revolutionary element set aside, congress can devote itself to constructive legislation.

Reports to the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee indicate a widespread determination of labor to defeat its enemies and elect trade unionists or known friends of labor.

State committees are being organized through state federations of labor and city committees are being organized through city central bodies. Thousands of local unions have also elected committees and this number is constantly increasing.

These committees keep in close touch with the A. F. of L. committee, which is supplying records of senators and congressmen, providing literature, organizing a national corps of four-minute speakers and arranging a system for voluntary contributions of $1 to be handled efficiently by local committees in meeting necessary expenses for halls, local printing, etc.

All committees are urging trade unionists and other friends of progress to be active now in part in primaries and to register that they may qualify to vote. In many localities the primary election is equivalent to an election and the old policy of leaving the primaries and conventions to the agents of reaction is abandoned. Trade unionists are responding to the importance of the primaries and in many early local elections have been successful. This upheavals this year by entering the primaries and smashing the reactionary cliques.

There is no part of our political system that is more in need of reform than the primary election system. Every link in the chain is important—the primary, caucuses that lead to the nomination of candidates and political conventions are all vital. Not one step can be neglected by citizens as to have "government of, by and for the people."

ANTI-STRIKE LAW UPHELD.

Pittsburg, Kan., May 8.—In a cunning piece of word jugglery the Kansas "can't-strike" law has been upheld by Judge Thomas Dawes in the Crawford county district court. The court's argument of words is shown in this statement:

"A man cannot be compelled to work, you say. Certainly not. You do not believe for a moment that any member of the legislature intended to make any man work. The purpose of this act is in an orderly way to give a man as much work."

When analyzed, this declaration means that those lawmakers never intended that workers would be denied the right to quit their employment, but if they do quit the lawmakers have provided that they shall go to jail.

This method of reasoning—or absence of reasoning—runs all through Judge Carman's decision. The court rules that the "can't-strike" law does not violate the 13th amendment, which prohibits involuntary servitude. The Kansas act does not legalize involuntary servitude, said the court, but the state has "reasonable exercise of the police power to safeguard the health, morals and general welfare of its citizens."

According to the court's logic if it is unlawful to withhold your labor to get your jobs that the public's welfare may be protected, this is not a violation of the federal constitution or the Kansas bill of rights.

WON'T STAND HITCHED.

Washington, May 8.—"Members of congress won't stand hitched when I present a petition to raise the wages of employes to separate from the A. F. of L." said Congressman Blanton of Texas, one of labor's legmen. The Texas law maker was in a mournful mood. Only endorsements were voted with him. Blanton has harangued the house in season and out of season for months on end. His suggestions, generally, are supported by himself, but this time he was aided by five others, three of whom are from his own state.

When Blanton recovered from his knock out he came back with his stale tender-foot act. This time he blamed President Gompers and the executive council of the federation of the anti-trade union policy of Attorney General Palmer and other flaming cheap-labor efforts as the "open" shop. These employes it was declared, cherish no dream that they may destroy the trade union movement. Instead of reducing workers again to the level of the open shop they are trying to lift labor under the lash of so-called independence and individualism."

Labor's Non-Partisan League to these antagonists "that they have a fight on their hands" and that it takes the roof from over our heads, will be thrown into the branch to prevent the carrying out of labor's hopes, aims and aspirations of organized labor."

DUNCAN APPOINTED.

Washington, May 8.—The president has nominated Pirst Vice President James Duncan of the A. F. of L. membership on the interstate commerce commission. Mr. Duncan was appointed by Mr. Wilson to fill positions on the commission made vacant by the resignations of those members by the Cummins-Esch railroad bill. His term will end on December 31, 1923. His appointment must be confirmed by the senate. The president has also sent to the senate council of the A. F. of L. since 1894, when he was elected second vice president at the Denver convention. He represented the Bricklayers' international union for years. During his 28 years of service as an A. F. of L. official his activities are best of any in the history of the trade union movement.

NON-UNIONISTS STRIKE.

Hartford, Conn., May 8.—Trade unionists are laughing at the embarrassment of business men in this city who favor the open-shop because "there is never any labor trouble."

A big piece of construction work is being done by non-union men and workers who demanded the "prevailing rate"—one in other words, that the union men be given the labor. The job is tied up and the non-unionists are out. Over 75 men will break the strike of non-unionists.

FIREMEN RAISE WAGES.

Cincinnati, May 8.—Stationary firemen employed in ice plants have secured wage increases. The new rate is 67½ cents.

RAISE TEACHERS' PAY.

Pittsburg, Pa., May 8.—The board of education has raised wages of public school teachers. The new rate will take about $1,115,000.

WAS BIG BIZ PATRIOTIC?

New York, May 8.—The claim that business must be stimulated by big profits in war time was refuted before the senate by Congressman Griffin of New York, who said men called their lives and the lives of their children "patriotic" when they were compelled to pay prices for food and clothing that were "unpatriotic" and "robbery."

"The men who were impressed, but yet revered spirit of patriotism was not stimulated by the profits of the mechanic, the farmer, the clerk, the teacher, and the laborer," said the lawmaker.

"These must skimp themselves out of necessities and pay the war profiteers' bonds; but the great masters of industry, the financiers and big producers, must be stimulated by the encouragement of war profits.' With this campaign of fear and of patriotic sentimental insidiousness, war it any wonder that all others, who had the right and ability, should strive to come under the patriarchal rule of the profiteers when they considered only a proportional increase in wages to the big corporate gougers found that the payment of increased wages cut directly into their profits they next step was to increase their profits."

FAVOR NON-PARTISANSHIP.

Savannah, Ga., May 8.—The trade union theory of political non-partisanship was endorsed by the annual convention of the Georgia state federation of labor. The federation is composed largely of the Rochdale system of co-operative stores, in which the profits are returned to members on the basis of their purchases.

The convention indorsed workmen's compensation and anti-injunction legislation and approved the anti-trade union policy of Attorney General Palmer and other flaming cheap-labor efforts as the "open" shop. These employes it was declared, cherish no dream that they may destroy the trade union movement. Instead of reducing workers again to the level of the open shop they are trying to lift labor under the lash of so-called independence and individualism."

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WANT MEXICANS BARRED.

Fort Worth, Texas, May 8.—There is a labor shortage in the southwest and Mexican labor imported by the Southern Pacific has been used to lower living standards, say organized oil workers in an appeal sent to Secretary of Labor Wilson, who is asked to investigate methods of cheap-labor employment in the southwest.

The oil workers say that thousands of Mexicans have entered this country for the ostensible purpose of working on railroads, but instead of remaining on the farms they are brought to the cities and towns and used in mines and other industries and placed in competition with native workers. Many of them, the letter can not compete with the Mexicans because of different living standards.

METAL WORKERS ADVANCE.

Louisville, Ky., May 8.—A 20 per cent wage increase has been negotiated by organized sheet metal workers. The new rate is 75 cents an hour. About 85 per cent of the employers have signed the agreement, but even the non-signers adoption board to adjust future differences.

PRESSMEN ADVANCE.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., May 8.—Continued gains by local affiliates are announced by officers of International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union. In the current issue of the American Pressman it is printed a list of nearly 50 localities which within since increased and improved working conditions secured.

NEW RATE FOR BAKERS.

Yonkers, N. Y., May 8.—A new wage agreement secured by the bakers' union calls for a minimum weekly rate of $46 for foremen; $42 for second hands and $40 for bench men.